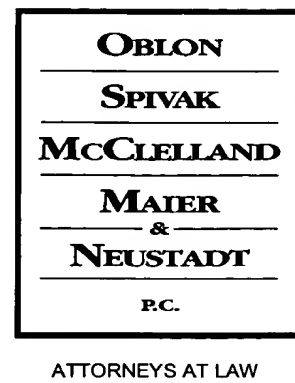




Docket No.: 215909US0

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 09/991,642  
Applicants: Hisao YONEDA, et al.  
Filing Date: November 26, 2001  
For: NAPPED LEATHER-LIKE SHEET MATERIAL AND  
METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME  
Group Art Unit: 1771  
Examiner: Juska, C. A.

SIR:

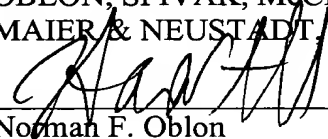
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

Our check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24,618

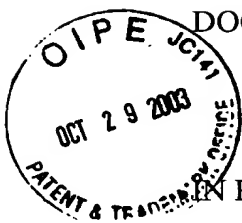
Customer Number

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Harris A. Pitlick

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DOCKET NO: 215909US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

HISAO YONEDA ET AL

: EXAMINER: JUSKA, C. A.

SERIAL NO: 09/991,642

:

FILED: NOVEMBER 26, 2001

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1771

FOR: NAPPED LEATHER-LIKE SHEET  
MATERIAL AND METHOD OF  
PRODUCING SAME

:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's disagreement that the term "artificial leather", as used in the present claims, does not include synthetic leather.

The original claims recited the term "leather-like". In view of a rejection of the claims containing this term on the ground that its boundaries were unclear, Applicants changed the term to --artificial leather--. Applicants stated that the term --artificial leather-- was intended to include both artificial leather and synthetic leather. The term "synthetic leather" does not appear *per se* in the specification. If it had, Applicants would have changed "leather-like" to --artificial or synthetic leather--. However, as indicated in the amendment filed July 24, 2003, a structure of synthetic leather is described in the specification at page 7, lines 28-32.

Applicants' point is that no change in claim scope was intended by changing the term "leather-like" to the term --artificial leather-- and thus, no "leather-like" structure disclosed in

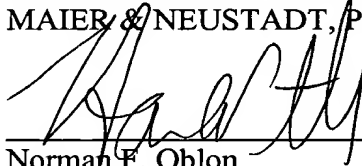
Application No. 09/991,642

Reply to Notice of Allowability of September 23, 2003

the specification, such as that disclosed at page 7, lines 28-32, was intended to be excluded  
by this change.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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